

Binani Cement inks MoU with Gujarat govt

Project cost pegged at Rs825-crore

MUMBAI: Binani Cement Ltd., has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Gujarat state government for setting up a greenfield cement plant of 2.5 MTPA capacity in Gujarat. The proposed plant location will be at Lothva village in Sutrapada district of Junagadh. The land requirement for proposed plant is 1550 hectares and for mining 1532 hectares. The plant will manufacture ordinary Portland cement (OPC), Pozzolona Portland cement (PPC) in various grades and the production of OPC to PPC will be ordinarily 50:50. This plant will be mechanically completed by December 2010 and the commercial production will commence from April 2011.



Vinod Juneja, managing director of Binani Group

The project is estimated to cost Rs825-crore. The excise duty and the sales tax for the plant are estimated to be Rs65-crore and Rs78-crore respectively, at 100 percent capacity utilization per annum. Binani would also be required to pay Rs17-crore per annum as the royalty and cess on Limestone to the Gujarat government. The cement from this Binani plant will be supplied to the markets in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Middle East. The MoU was signed by Vinod Juneja, Managing Director, Binani Group, on behalf of Binani Cement Ltd., and

by Raj Gopal, Commissioner – Mines and Geology on behalf of the Gujarat state government. ■

Tata Teleservices join hands with Quippo Telecom

Quippo to make an upfront cash payment of Rs2,400-crore

MUMBAI: Tata Teleservices Ltd., and Quippo Telecom Infrastructure Ltd., promoted by the Kanoria of SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd., announced the merger of their passive infrastructure businesses to create India's largest independent telecom infrastructure company. Under the terms of this strategic partnership, Tata Teleservices and Quippo Telecom will swap 51 percent and 49 percent stake, respectively, in the infrastructure business held by them. The management rights in Wireless-TT Infrastructure Services Ltd (WTTIL) – the tower arm of Tata Teleservices – shall now move over to an independent and professional management run by Quippo Telecom, to make it a truly independent tower operator without being managed by a Telco.

Quippo will make an upfront cash payment of approximately Rs2,400-crore, as also transfer its passive telecom tower portfolio of approximately 5,000 towers to WTTIL. The combined entity will, therefore, have a portfolio of over 18,000 towers – thereby making it the largest independently managed tower company in India, with an enterprise valuation of approximately Rs13,000-crore (\$2.6-billion).



Anil Sardana (L), managing director, Tata Teleservices Ltd., and Sunil Kanoria (R), vice-chairman and managing director, Quippo Infrastructure Equipment Ltd.

"When Quippo pioneered the concept of shared passive infrastructure in 2005, there were no takers. Now, through this merger, the dream is being realized – resulting in a win-win situation for customers and stakeholders of Quippo and WTTIL," said Sunil Kanoria, director, Quippo Telecom Infrastructure Ltd., and vice chairman and managing director, Quippo Infrastructure Equipment Ltd. ■